**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-24 (Canceled.)

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A purified variant of a parent alpha-amylase, said variant comprising a substitution of a K at an amino acid position corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of 118, 320 and 458 ~~(using the~~in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12 ~~for numbering)~~, wherein the variant has alpha-amylase activity, and wherein the variant has at least ~~90~~95% homology to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The variant of claim 25, comprising a substitution of R118K.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The variant of claim 25, comprising a substitution of R320K.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The variant of claim 25, comprising a substitution of R458K.

Claim 29. (Previously presented) The variant of claim 25, comprising a substitution of R118K, R320K and R458K.

Claim 30. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, wherein the parent alpha-amylase is *Bacilus sp.* DSMZ no. 12649 alpha-amylase.

Claims 31-56. (Canceled.)

Claim 57. (Currently amended) The variant of claim 25, wherein the variant has at least 97% homology with ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 58. (Canceled.)

Claim 59. (Currently amended) A purified non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase comprising a modification of a position corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of position 118, 320 and 458 ~~(using~~in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12 ~~for numbering)~~, wherein the modification is a substitution of a K for the amino acid naturally occurring at said position in the ~~parent~~ modified parent alpha-amylase such that a

K is not naturally present in said alpha-amylase prior to said modification, and wherein the non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase has alpha-amylase activity and at least ~~90~~95% homology to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 60. (Previously presented) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, comprising a modification of R118K.

Claim 61. (Previously presented) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, comprising a modification of R320K.

Claim 62. (Previously presented) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, comprising a modification of R458K.

Claim 63. (Previously presented) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, comprising a modification of R118K, R320K and R458K.

Claim 64. (Previously presented) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, wherein the parent alpha-amylase is *Bacillus sp.* DSMZ no. 12649 alpha-amylase.

Claim 65. (Canceled)

Claim 66. (Currently amended) The non-naturally occurring, modified parent alpha-amylase of claim 59, wherein the variant has at least 97% homology with ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 67 (New). A purified variant of a parent alpha-amylase, said variant comprising: alpha-amylase activity; and a substitution of a K at an amino acid position corresponding to an amino acid selected from the group consisting of 118, 320 and 458 in the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12, wherein the substitution at position 118 is further characterized as R118K, and wherein the variant has at least 95% homology to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:12.